

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for producing a low molecular weight glycosaminoglycan, which comprises irradiating a glycosaminoglycan with an ultraviolet ray.
2. The method according to claim 1, wherein light quantity of the ultraviolet ray is determined from molecular weight of a desired low molecular weight glycosaminoglycan on the basis of a direct proportional relationship between quantity of irradiated ultraviolet ray and reciprocal of molecular weight of low molecular weight glycosaminoglycan to be produced.
3. The method according to claim 1, wherein the glycosaminoglycan is selected from the group consisting of hyaluronic acid, chondroitin, chondroitin sulfate, dermatan sulfate, heparin, heparan sulfate and keratan sulfate.
4. The method according to claim 1, wherein temperature is maintained at 1 to 37°C during ultraviolet ray irradiation.
5. The method according to claim 1, wherein the ultraviolet ray to be irradiated has a wavelength of 250 to 450 nm.
6. A method for producing a purified low molecular weight glycosaminoglycan, which comprises irradiating a crude glycosaminoglycan containing contaminants with an ultraviolet ray to lower the molecular weight of the glycosaminoglycan and simultaneously decompose and remove the contaminants.